

# Plane Crash Kills Kin of R. Kennedy

Brother-in-Law,  
4 Others Die in  
Idaho Wilderness

RIGGINS, Idaho, Sept. 24  
(UPI)—Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's brother-in-law and four other persons were killed last night in a plane crash in Idaho's wilderness area.

The single-engine Cessna 185, one of several light planes carrying a 20-member elk hunting party to a guest ranch, crashed after becoming trapped by the nearly vertical walls of Crooked Creek Canyon. The pilot made a desperate, last-minute attempt to turn in the sheer canyon after overshooting a tiny landing strip. But the plane turned sharply and crashed into the creek bank.

In addition to Ethel Kennedy's brother, George Skakel Jr., the victims were former White House aide Dean F. Markham, who was a close friend of the New York Democrat; a socially prominent St. Louis investment broker; a New Jersey businessman, and the pilot.

## Parents Killed in 1955

It was the second air tragedy involving Mrs. Kennedy's family. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Skakel Sr., were killed in a light plane crash in Oklahoma in 1953.

In addition, Sen. Kennedy's brother Joseph Jr. and sister Kathleen were killed in air crashes in the 1940s and another brother, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), suffered a broken back in a plane crash in 1964.

Upon learning of the latest tragedy, Robert Kennedy canceled a keynote speech to the New Hampshire Democratic Convention to be with his wife, and Edward Kennedy canceled a five-city political tour of Colorado.



Associated Press

DEAN F. MARKHAM

... killed in plane crash

## Victims of Idaho Crash

The dead in yesterday's crash were:

- Skakel, 47, Greenwich, Conn., president of the Great Lakes Carbon Company of New York, brother of Mrs. Kennedy; and a well known polo player, skier and hunter.

- Markham, 47, McLean, Va., Skakel's assistant, who served as a White House aide under the late President Kennedy and President Johnson. A neighbor of Robert Kennedy, Markham once was head of the staff of the White House Commission on Narcotics Abuse.

- Lewis Werner II, St. Louis, a member of a socially prominent family and operator of an investment firm.

[The Central Intelligence Agency in Washington said Werner was an employee of its St. Louis office and had been primarily engaged in recruiting employees for the counter-espionage agency, the Associated Press reported.]

- Earl Ranft, Jersey City, N.J., president of Draybar Haulage.

- Sgt. Donald Adams, 36, Clinton, Okla., who was stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

The scene of the crash was the primitive area along the Salmon River canyon 32 miles east of Riggins and about 24 miles north of Boise.

State Aeronautics Director Chet Moulton said the pilot



Associated Press

GEORGE SKAKEL JR.

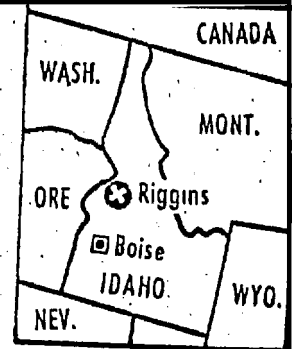
... among crash victims

apparently was unfamiliar with the wild country.

"He came in high and hot—that's fast," Moulton said. "He hit a knoll and bounced. He gave it the throttle and tried to pull out for another approach."

Moulton said there is only one way to go if a pilot does not land on the strip after making his approach—that is up Crooked Creek, a stream that rises fast into a narrow, steep canyon. Moulton said there is no room for a plane to turn around in the canyon.

But ranch manager Keith McCormack said Adams had landed at the strip at least twice previously. "He was very competent and had about 3000 hours in the air," McCormack said.



The Washington Post Sept. 25, 1964

SCENE — The plane crash fatal to George Skakel Jr. and four others occurred near Riggins, Idaho.